with the Government for Approval;

(b) whether any clearance has been granted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Government has on 28.2.97 accorded Ist Stage clearance to Cochin Refineries Limited, for preparation of a Detailed Feasibility Report, at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.50 crores, including FE component of Rs. 1.75 crores. for setting up of a 500 MW Power Generation Plant at Ambalamugal, Ernakulam District, Kerala.

Pilferage in Oil Refinery

1776. SHRI VIJAY HARISHCHANDRA PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware about pilferage of huge quantity of oil from Barauni Oil Refinery at various stages;

(b) if so, the amount of loss Government is incurring; and

(c) whether the Government propose to take immediate steps to check the pilferage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) According to I.O.C. there is no pilferage of oil from Barauni Refinery. IOC have an effective system of checks and balances coupled with close monitoring of loading and despatch of all petroleum products from the refinery premises.

Besides, a full compliment of CISF personnel are deployed in the refinery premises for security including prevention of pilferage.

Exploration of Deposits of Uranium

1777. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the States in which scientists had recently explored the deposits of Uranium;

(b) the locations where work of exploration of Uranium has since been started;

(c) the total quantity of Uranium extracted therefrom so far;

(d) whether the Government propose to explore the deposits of Uranium by using more modernised equipment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Preliminary survey for locating uranium reserves has been carried out throughout the country. The States and the locations where promising indications of uranium reserves have been noticed recently are :

1. Meghalaya – Near Domiasiat in the West Khasi Hills District.
2. Andhra Pradesh – Some areas in Nalgonda, Guntur, Cuddapah & Chittoor Districts.
3. Uttar Pradesh – Naktu-Kudar in Sonbhadra District.
4. Gujarat – Garumal in Panchmahals District.
5. Rajasthan – Putholi in Chittorgarh District
6. Karnataka – Gopi in Gulbarge District.

(c) Uranium has not yet been extracted from any of these areas.

(d) and (e) The Atomic Minerals Division (AMD) of the Department of Atomic Energy already employs modern multidisciplinary techniques like remote sensing using satellite data, study of aerial photographs, airborne gamm-ray and magnetic surveys etc. for uranium exploration. The Ninth Five Year Plan of AMD envisages modernisation through better equipment such as cesium vapour magnetometer for collection of airborne magnetic data, transient electro-magnetometer for ground surveys, global positioning system etc. for improveing efficiency.

Display of Portrait

1778. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for selecting the portraits of patriots to be displayed in the Courts throughout the country as well as in the buildings of National importance;

(b) whether it comes under the jurisdiction of Chief Justice, States or Centre, to take final decision in this regard; and

(c) if so, the procedure followed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) The

Ministry of Home Affairs, who deal with this subject, have intimated that they have not issued any instructions/ guidelines regarding the display of portraits/photographs of national leaders including the President and the Prime Minister of India. The matter has been left to the Heads of Departments to decide whether they should at all exhibit any portraits/photographs in the office premises/rooms and, if so, of which particular leader so as to ensure that no controversy arises out of the display of any of these portraits.

[Translation]

National Policy on Food Processing

1779. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI G.R. SARODE :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the national policy on food processing has not yet been finalised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the policy on deep sea fishing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b) The Food Processing Industry is being developed within the broad para-meters of the Industrial Policy of the Government. A framework for developing the new policy measures to address various issues for accelerated development of Food Processing Industries has been prepared which was discussed with the State Government representatives. Action has been initiated for pursuing it further.

(c) and (d) On the recommendations of the Review Committee, the New Deep Sea Fishing Policy of 1991 has been rescinded whereas charter policies are already being phased out. Action has also been initiated to formulate a new deep sea fishing policy.

[English]

Freight Equalisation System

1780. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that freight equalisation system in the Railways has been introduced all over the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railway freight per tonne of steel is Rs. 1900/- of any steel factory in the Eastern region states and only Rs. 900 per tonne in Maharashtra and Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to remove these discrepencies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected.

Supply of High Range Computers

1781. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has approved M/s Cray Research of USA for supply of high range computers for weather forecast;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for not approving an indigenous company; and

(c) the policy of the Government to promote indigenous industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has only approved the proposal of M/s. Cray Research Inc., U.S.A. for setting up a 100% subsidiary in India with an investment of Rs. 35 lakhs for, inter-alia, providing hardware and software support to its customers and for promoting its products and services.

(c) Policy measures taken by the Government to boost electronics industry in the country are given in the enclosed Statement. Apart from these, with the support of Government, High Performance Computers have been developed indigenously at a number of Governmental organisations which are being used. These developments are intended to be encouraged through appropriate policy measures.

Statement

Policy measurs taken to boost the growth of Electronics Industry in the country

(i) Policy initiatives like exemption from locational limitations, abolition of licensing, abolition of phased manufacturing programme and amendment to the MRTP Act to facilitate investments.